



Aloft

m.o.r.e. Cabin
Lac Du Brochet, Quebec,
Canada
Kariouk Architects





Who doesn't love a good forest cabin? Canada is the land of such buildings, scattered through the seemingly infinite remoteness of the vast land mass. City dwellers in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal or Edmonton crave brief escapes to these lairs in all seasons, the better to appreciate the climate and nature in full glory. To that end, much of cabin architecture seeks to meld with its surroundings as fully as possible, usually employing wood for structure and cladding, not least since the sustainable material is abundant here. Kariouk Architects produced this 100 sqm version from a slightly different angle, no pun intended. It seeks to honestly land on its site in a pragmatic, light-footed manner.

In fact, the metal shingle-clad rectangular volume rests on a set of steel masts that lift it off the ground plane and allow it to hover over the steep slope as a dramatic, sharp-nosed bridge-like element. It thrusts out toward the view, culminating in a vertiginous prow that feels very much like having taken flight. Most of the long side walls are glazed along one elevation, making the interior a lookout perch or panoramic viewing platform. The warm blond timber finishes of the interiors contrast pleasingly with the dark exterior tone of the metal. A set of enclosed bedrooms and bathroom line up to one side of the entrance corridor, and enjoy smaller framed apertures. From the entrance, the circulation gallery leads toward the main living space, which opens up in aspect. The roof is a faceted 'wing' that complements the plan's gently wedged shape. Allowing the verdant, raw landscape to run freely underneath most of the length of m.o.r.e. Cabin provides a lightness of character that balances its industrial details.

The cabin is emphatic in character, proud of its forceful presence in this robust landscape. There are easier ways to occupy remote sites, certainly, but if you want to fly like the birds, you've got to take off.

